

Small Group Discussion Questions Florence County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- SIC
- EEDA (Education Economic Development Act)
- Local School Boards
- Legislative
- Mayor's Coalition
- Faith Based Initiatives
- Civic Groups
- Liaison between charter schools
- Southern Accreditation
- School Foundation
- Teacher Organization
- High Schools That Work
- Making Middle Grades Work
- Partnership with Colleges and Tech
- Parent Center
- Round Table Discussions
- Early Home-Family Strengthening
- Expanding early childhood programs both 4k as well as 0-3 yr old
- Focus on getting students on grade level by grade 3
- Ninth grade academy
- High schools that work
- All Florence BOE meet quarterly to share success and challenges
- Community improvement
- Adult education consolidated programs
- Magic Johnson Center
- One Stop Center
- Gear-Up
- The school foundation
- Expansion of dual enrollment college and high school credits
- National network of partnership schools
- Expansion of after school programs to neighborhoods
- After school program in Orangeburg and Florence between religious community and the school
- Recruitment Fair (National)
- Certification of special education
- Facility study
- Parent center
- Reading initiative

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Maintaining Commitment
- Lack of willingness to change
- Parental Involvement
- Aging Facilities
- Lack of ownership
- Lack of appropriate staff members
- Accredited teachers
- Certification Restrictions
- Cultural differences
- Money (need a better funding plan)
- Low tax base
- Building money
- Grants
- Bricks and mortar
- Community support
- Better understanding of needs of schools
- Between business and schools
- Not enough business partners
- Those that love the “Bad News”
- Need a business plan
- Need a better communication plan
- EEDA (under funded)
- Dual enrollment not listed on report cards
- Lack of certified teachers
- Cultural diversity training (for best classroom results)
- Technology evenly distributed
- Aging facilities
- Overcrowded classrooms
- Increase in number of retirees
- Significant percentage of teachers retiring
- Economic disparities (between districts) i.e funding
- Absence of public knowledge of the issue (educate the public)

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Community shared goals
- Develop ways and means to engage all partners necessary for success of each grade
- Develop a master plan, update annually and communicate to entire community
- Develop ways that require family participation in their child's education
- Support effective implementation of EDDA
- Communicate between business and schools
- Communicate between schools and parents
- Improve communication
- Reach everybody
- Teach involvement
- Improve technology and access to.....
- Commit to public education
- Get involved
- Educate the community
- Public awareness
- Accountability (accept responsibility , ownership)
- Continue to carry out initiative
- Delivery of the message

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Make a personal effort to remain informed related to your educational improvement and needs
- Get involved at the local school level, to do what you can to help
- Support local and state education improvement efforts.(focus on positive, look for possibilities vs. limitations)
- Get involved with your child or grandchild's education, accept personal responsibility
- Commit yourself to your own continuous education improvement (ex. Life long learner)